INFORMATION LETTER

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Prospective Plantings of Vegetables for Processing

On the basis of reports of intentions to plant, the prospective acreage of eight vegetables for processing this year is about 3 percent less than last year, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA.

The vegetables for processing for which the USDA estimates smaller acreages, as of April 15, are beets, down 7 percent; contract cabbage, down 11 percent; corn, down 3 percent; peas, down 3 percent; and tomatoes, down 11 percent.

Increases in planted acreage are reported in prospect for snap beans, up 7 percent; cucumbers for pickles, up 10 percent; and winter and early spring spinach, up 4 percent.

The eight crops usually account for nearly 90 percent of the planted acreage for the 10 vegetables for processing covered in regular USDA reports.

Details of the acreage estimates are reported in the INFORMATION LETTERS of March 16, page 127; April 13, page 149; and in this issue on page 165.

Status of Agenda and Schedule for Spring Meeting of N.C.A. Board of Directors and Related Committees

Additional details of the spring Board of Directors and related meetings have been completed since the announcement in the INFORMATION LETTER of April 13. Further particulars will be announced in future issues as they are developed.

The schedule of events, along with certain particulars about each, is as follows:

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

9:30 a.m.—Legislative Committee meeting, Main Conference Room, N.C.A. Headquarters. State secretaries have been invited to attend, if they are interested.

9:30 a.m.—Reappraisal Committee, (room to be announced), N.C.A. Headquarters.

12:30 p.m.—Luncheon Meeting of Canner-Grower Coordinating Committee (location to be announced).

2-4 p.m.—Open House at N.C.A. Headquarters for new members of the Board. This will be a tour throughout the building to enable new members to inspect the Laboratory and other departmental facilities, meet staff personnel, and make inquiries about the respective N.C.A. programs.

2 p.m.—Convention Program Committee, (room to be announced), N.C.A. Headquarters.

2 p.m.—Consumer and Trade Relations Committee, Library, N.C.A. Headquarters.

4:30 p.m.—Premiere showing of new color-sound film, "The Story of John Porter," Presidential Room, Hotel Statler, followed by reception in the Congressional Room. The film is one of the projects of the N.C.A. Consumer and Trade Relations Program, produced in collaboration with the National Junior Vegetable Growers Association.

The work of the N.C.A. and the canning industry in raw products research, or horticulture, has for many years been an outstanding example of cooperative and progressive canner-grower relations. For the past two years N.C.A. has sponsored a Farm Youth Program to interest young boys and girls in careers in horticulture and to assure the food industry of sufficient trained scientists to meet expanding needs. The film promotes this activity of N.C.A.

Leading agricultural officials in government, education and industry—from Congress, the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the American Farm Bureau Federation, National Grange, the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, Farmers Union, Vegetable Growers Association, the food trades, and others—are being invited. So also are Board and committee members in Washington, the state secretaries, and the trade and other press. Principal Congressional attendance will come from the membership of the Senate and House Agriculture Committees, but members of the Board have been requested also to invite their Senators and Congressmen to attend as their guests.

The film dramatically presents the story of agriculture as an industry, and the career opportunities in horticulture and allied agriculture sciences. It is the story of one of America's

Special House Subcommittee on 'Legislative Oversight' To Investigate Regulatory Agencies, Including the FDA

A special investigation of federal regulatory agencies—including the Food and Drug Administration—is to be undertaken by a special subcommittee of the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

The investigation is aimed at determining whether the regulatory agencies are administering laws as the Congress intended. The investigation may extend over the next 18 months.

The investigation was approved by the House in two separate actions. After an initial authorization of $100,000, the House voted April 11 to authorize $350,000 for the study, after Speaker Rayburn left the Speaker's chair and took the floor to urge approval of that amount.

Representative Moulder (Mo.) has been named to head the special investigating subcommittee. Others on the Legislative Oversight Subcommittee, as it is being called, are Representatives Williams (Miss.), Flynt (Ga.), O'Brien (N. Y.), Moss (Calif.), O'Hara (Minn.), Hale (Maine), Heselton (Mass.), and Bennett (Mich.). Representative Harris (Ark.), chairman of the Commerce Committee, and Representative Wolverton (N. J.), ranking minority member, will be ex officio members of the subcommittee.

The subcommittee expects to engage a staff of 12 investigators.

The FDA is only one of a number of agencies to be covered in the investigation. The agencies to be examined

(Please turn to page 164)

greatest assets, its youth, and how they can direct their energies, interests and enthusiasms toward a rewarding career in a necessary and exciting field—agriculture.

The reception following the film, which will be held in the adjacent Congressional Room of the Statler, will furnish an opportunity for canning industry people to impress on their Senators and Representatives this example of the work of the canning industry in agriculture, and will provide a chance to visit with them socially.

THURSDAY, MAY 23

9 a.m.—Legislative Committee (room at Sheraton-Park Hotel to be announced). The Committee, in a short meeting, will brief Board members on pending legislative problems such as marketing orders, chemical additives, and wage and hour.

The balance of the morning is being held open to permit Board members and others to visit their Senators and Congressmen in their Capitol Hill offices.

9:30 a.m.—Meeting of the Association of Canners State and Regional Secretaries, Library, N.C.A. Headquarters.

9:30 a.m.—Administrative Council, Conference Room, N.C.A. Headquarters.

12:30 p.m.—Luncheon—Board of Directors, Administrative Council, state secretaries and N.C.A. guests, Continental Room, Sheraton-Park Hotel.

Speaker will be announced later. One of the ceremonial events will be the presentation of the N.C.A. plaque to Gary Marlin Bishop, 17, of Mount Blanchard, Ohio, winner of the 1956 Canning Crops Contest.

2 p.m.—Board of Directors Meeting, first session, Caribar Room, Sheraton-Park Hotel. This will be an open session of the Board, with state secretaries and trade press invited to attend. An agenda is being built that will feature current legislative matters, canner-grower relations activities, and plans for the 1958 and subsequent Conventions.

5 p.m.—Reception at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Campbell.

FRIDAY, MAY 24

9 a.m.—Closed Executive Session of the Board of Directors, Sheraton-Park Hotel. This session will deal with internal management affairs of the Association and its program, and is closed to all but Board members.

If Board, Committee members, state secretaries and other N.C.A. guests have not already made their hotel reservations for these meetings, and if they desire the N.C.A. to obtain them, requests should be addressed to Mrs. Betty Dulin, National Canners Association, 1133 20th St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C. The hotels have requested that all reservation requests be in not later than May 1.

FCC Business Radio Service

The Federal Communications Commission has proposed regulations governing a so-called "Business Radio Service" which would take the place of the Special Industrial Radio Service now existing.

Under the FCC proposal, any person engaged in a "lawful business activity" will be eligible to use industrial radio in connection with such activities. The effect of the proposed rule change would be to eliminate many of the restrictions which have heretofore limited the use of industrial radio to certain geographical areas and to certain types of industrial users.

In order to accommodate the increased demand for industrial radio frequencies which will undoubtedly result from the elimination of these restrictions, the FCC also is proposing to increase the number of frequencies available to industrial users. Existing licenses in the Special Industrial and Citizens Radio Services will not be required to change frequencies.

The FCC proposal was published in the *Federal Register* of April 17.

Legislative Oversight

(Concluded from page 163)

are divided by the subcommittee into three groups:

(1) Civil Aeronautics Administration, Civil Aeronautics Board, Federal Communications Commission, Federal Power Commission, Federal Trade Commission, Food and Drug Administration, Interstate Commerce Commission, Securities and Exchange Commission;

(2) Bureau of Standards, National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, Weather Bureau;

(3) Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, Office of Alien Property, Public Health Service, Railroad Retirement Board, and other agencies within legislative jurisdiction of the Committee.

The House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce has legislative jurisdiction over each of the federal activities administered by these agencies.

According to an April 18 announcement by the Oversight Committee, the investigation will cover—

"(1) Whether the law has been and is being faithfully executed by the agency in the public interest;

"(2) Whether the law and the statutory standards it contains have been and are being interpreted by rule, or internal procedures, to enlarge the area of regulation beyond that intended, and to administer it through procedures not intended by the Congress."

The subjects to be considered, according to the Committee, are:

"(1) Review and analysis of the law and amendments, and intent of the Congress when enacted;

"(2) Area of the field regulated by each law, changing circumstances and growth of the field since enactment;

"(3) Consideration of the legislative standards in the law to determine whether they can be drafted in more precise terms with the view of reducing administrative discretion;

"(4) Consideration of rules and regulations issued by the agency under the discretionary delegations, reconciliation with statutory standards and legislative intent, manner in which rules have been applied in practice;

"(5) Administrative interpretations and practices apart from formal rules and regulations, public notice of such interpretations and practices, extent to which in fact administration is by internal interpretations as distinct from published rules;

"(6) Judicial decisions on the administration of the law by the agency, the statutory standards, rules and regulations, and administrative interpretation; enlargement of area of regulation supported by the decisions;

"(7) Enforcement of statute, rules and regulations;

"(8) Organization of agency:

"(a) Independence and bipartisanship of Commission, as intended in its creation; identification of the regulators with the regulated;

"(b) Personnel: experience, relationship to agency policy, status under Civil Service;

"(c) Work load, distribution of personnel as to statutory duties or on duties assumed through administrative interpretations, coordination with state and other regulatory agencies, trade or industry enforcement groups."

Stocks of Canned Foods on April 1 and Season Shipments

Reports on canners' stocks and shipments of canned apples, applesauce, RSP cherries, sweet cherries, apricots, peaches, pears, green and wax beans, corn, peas, pumpkin and squash, tomatoes, tomato juice, catsup, and chili sauce have been issued by the N.C.A. Division of Statistics, and detailed reports covering the April 1 stock and shipment situation have been mailed to all canners of these products.

	Carry-over month	Case basis	Total Supply 1955	Total Supply 1956	Canners' Stocks, April 1 1956	Canners' Stocks, April 1 1957	Season Shipments to April 1 1956	Season Shipments to April 1 1957
			(thousands of cases)					
Apples	Aug.	6/10	4,009	4,900	2,090	2,237	2,519	2,663
Applesauce	Aug.	actual	15,661	17,130	6,082	7,856	9,579	9,274
RSP cherries	July	actual	5,027	3,103	1,213	630	3,814	2,473
Sweet cherries	June	24/2½	1,647	1,113	598	250	1,049	863
Apricots	June	24/2½	6,144	5,373	1,870	1,689	4,274	3,684
Peaches	June	24/2½	23,584	30,136	5,509	10,398	18,075	19,738
Pears	June	24/2½	9,932	10,610	3,200	4,091	6,732	6,519
Beans, green and wax	July	actual	28,181	28,497	8,458	8,464	19,723	20,033
Corn	Aug.	actual	34,530	44,390	10,407	15,758	24,123	28,632
Peas	June	actual	33,096	35,152	6,256	8,051	26,839	27,101
Pumpkin and squash	July	actual	3,764	4,613	460	1,424	3,303	3,189
Tomatoes	July	actual	24,051	29,664	5,154	9,293	18,877	20,371
Tomato juice	July	actual	29,039	40,030	7,050	16,813	21,989	23,217
Catsup	July	actual	25,647	33,151	8,036	14,859	17,611	18,292
Chili sauce	July	actual	2,831	3,753	937	1,563	1,894	2,190

Canned Baby Food Stocks

Details of the canned baby food supply, stock and shipment situation are reported by the N.C.A. Division of Statistics as follows:

	1956	1957
	(thousands of dozens)	
Canner stocks, Jan. 1	77,017	74,965
Pack, Jan.-March	31,188	34,196
Supply	108,205	109,161
Canner stocks, April 1	64,758	65,167
Canner shipments during March	15,463	14,845
Canner shipments, Jan.-March	43,447	43,994

1956 Packs in Canada

The 1956 packs of canned fruits in Canada totaled about 20 percent less product weight than in 1955, and the 1956 pack of canned vegetables was down about 10 percent from the 1955 total, according to statistics published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Principal decline was in the pack of canned peaches, from 4,245,825 dozens comprising 66.5 million pounds of product to 2,459,698 dozens of 38.9 million pounds of product. A sizable decline also was reported for the pack of canned corn, down from 6,762,985 dozens of 86 million pounds to 4,850,995 dozens of 60.4 million pounds.

	1955	1956	1955	1956
	(millions of dozens)		(millions of pounds)	
Fruits	13.7	10.5	263.7	208.3
Vegetables	27.3	23.2	499.6	451.3

Beets for Canning

The acreage of beets to be planted for canning in 1957 is expected to be about 7 percent less than the acreage planted in 1956, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA.

Based on processors' intentions, the 1957 planted acreage is estimated at 19,840 acres compared with 21,350 acres planted last year and the 10-year average of 17,520 acres.

State	10-year ave. 1946–55	1956	1957 Prospective	Percent change from 1956
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	
New York	4,020	4,300	4,100	−5
Michigan	1,000	700	700	....
Wisconsin	7,920	8,500	7,600	−11
Oregon	1,570	1,700	1,700	....
Other states [1]	3,010	6,150	5,740	−7
U. S. Total	17,520	21,350	19,840	−7

[1] Calif., Colo., Del., Ill., Ind., La., Maine, Md., Minn., N. J., Ohio, Pa., Tenn., Texas, Utah, and Wash.

Cucumbers for Pickles

An increase of about 10 percent from the 1956 plantings of cucumbers for pickles is indicated for 1957, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA.

If early-season prospects materialize, the 1957 plantings of cucumbers for pickles will total 139,350 acres. This compares with 126,340 acres planted in 1956 and the 10-year average of 145,350 acres.

Abandonment of planted acreage has averaged about 8 percent annually during the past 10 years. If this loss is assumed for 1957, there would be 128,200 acres for harvest. This compares with 118,930 acres harvested in 1956 and an average of 133,440 acres for the 1946-55 period.

Prospective production is up in the three principal producing states. Michigan indicates 42,000 acres, exceeding last year by 11 percent but 4 percent below average. Wisconsin indicates 21,000 acres, up 12 percent over 1956 but 5 percent below average. North Carolina reports 18,500 acres in prospect, substantially above both last year and average.

Tomatoes for Processing

The acreage of tomatoes to be planted in 1957 for processing is expected to be about 11 percent less than the acreage planted in 1956 and 20 percent less than average, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA.

Based on processors' intentions, as reported to USDA in early April, the 1957 planted acreage is estimated at 313,350 acres compared with 353,200 acres planted last year and the 1946-55 average of 390,710 acres.

Following is the acreage in prospect as of April 15, as reported by USDA April 22:

State	10-year ave. 1946–55	1956	1957 Prospective	Percent change from 1956
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	
N. Y.	20,480	14,400	11,500	−20
N. J.	30,120	24,700	22,000	−11
Pa.	25,210	23,000	22,000	−4
Ohio	23,010	18,400	15,700	−15
Ind.	50,720	32,600	31,000	−5
Ill.	11,380	10,200	10,500	+3
Mich.	7,750	7,100	6,900	−3
Wis.	1,300	1,100	900	−18
Iowa	1,800	2,000	1,900	−5
Mo.	5,700	1,300	1,400	+8
Del.	5,500	3,600	3,300	−8
Md.	27,490	10,600	8,500	−20
Va.	18,040	14,000	13,000	−7
S. C.	1,700	1,400	1,400	....
Fla.	5,390	9,200	8,800	−4
Ky.	2,450	1,300	1,300	....
Tenn.	2,080	400	400	....
Ark.	8,470	3,200	2,900	−9
Okla.	1,360	200	300	+50
Texas	20,860	12,000	9,000	−25
Colo.	3,790	3,700	3,100	−16
Utah	7,070	6,000	6,000	....
Calif.	105,390	151,500	130,000	−14
Other states [1]	2,840	1,300	1,550	+19
U. S. Total	390,710	353,200	313,350	−11

[1] Ala., Ariz., Conn., Idaho, Kans., La., Minn., Miss., Nebr., N. M., N. C., Ore., Wash., and W. Va.

Status of Legislation

(The Senate and House adjourned April 18 until April 29.)

Agricultural trade development—S. 1314 (Ellender of La.), to raise Title I authorizations from $3 billion to $4 billion and extend P. L. 480 to June 30, 1958, was passed by the Senate April 1 and was the subject of a hearing by the House Agriculture Committee March 29.

Antimerger legislation—H. R. 2143 (Celler of N. Y.), to require prior notification of corporate mergers, was approved, with amendments, by a House Judiciary Subcommittee April 4. S. 198 (O'Mahoney of Wyo.) is pending before Senate Antimonopoly Subcommittee.

Defense procurement—S. 1537 (McClellan of Ark. and McCarthy of Wis.) and a number of companion bills in the House, to create a "Supply and Service Administration" in the Department of Defense for purchase and distribution of common supply items, in line with Hoover Commission recommendations, have been introduced and referred to Armed Services Committees, which are awaiting comments from the Department.

FDA chemical additives—H. R. 6747 (Harris of Ark.) and S. 1895 (Hill of Ala.), the Administration-sponsored bill, would regulate the use of chemical additives in foods. No action scheduled.

Fishermen's Protective Act—Bills to broaden protection of fishermen on the high seas were the subject of a hearing by a House Merchant Marine Subcommittee April 17.

Government contracts—H. R. 722, to amend the Robinson-Patman Act so as to make sales to nonprofit institutions for resale, subject to the Act, will be the subject of hearings by House Judiciary Committee after it receives statements from government agencies concerned.

ICC agricultural exemption—S. 1689 (Magnuson of Wash.) and H. R. 5823 (Harris of Ark.), to amend the agricultural exemption in sec. 203 (b) (6) of the Interstate Commerce Act, have been introduced.

ICC private carrier definition—S. 1677 (Magnuson of Wash.) and H.R. 5825 (Harris of Ark.), to amend the definition of a private motor carrier, as recommended by the ICC, will be the subject of hearings by the Senate Surface Transportation Subcommittee May 6-8.

ICC private carrier registration—S. 1490 (Magnuson of Wash.) and H. R. 5664 (Harris of Ark.), to require private motor carriers to register with the ICC annually, was approved by the Senate Surface Transportation Subcommitte April 12 but was passed over by the full Senate Commerce Committee at its regular meeting April 15.

Marketing orders, cranberries—A number of bills to amend the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act so as to authorize marketing orders for cranberries for canning, will be the subject of hearings by a Senate Agriculture Subcommittee April 29. N.C.A. opposes.

Packers and Stockyards Act—S. 1356 (O'Mahoney of Wyo.), to transfer antitrust jurisdiction over meat packing operations from USDA to FTC, will be the subject of hearings by the Senate Judiciary Antitrust Subcommittee beginning May 1.

Potato marketing and labeling—A number of bills to prohibit the sale of potatoes of a lower grade than U. S. No. 2, under certain conditions, were the subject of hearings by the House Agriculture Committee April 15-16. N.C.A. opposes application to canning.

Poultry inspection—S. 1747 (Aiken of Vt.), providing for compulsory USDA inspection of poultry products, was passed by the Senate April 8. H. R. 6814 was approved by a House Agriculture Subcommittee April 9.

Robinson-Patman Act—S. 11 (Kefauver of Tenn.) and H. R. 11 (Patman of Tex.), to restrict the good faith defense against a charge of price discrimination, was the subject of hearings by the Senate Antitrust Subcommittee March 12-20 and March 26-April 5.

Wage-Hour—Various bills to increase the minimum wage, broaden coverage and eliminate existing exemptions in the Fair Labor Standards Act, were the subject of hearings by the Senate Labor Committee. The House Labor Subcommittee continues to hear witnesses.

Waste disposal—H. R. 1082 (Byrnes of Wis.), H. R. 2463 (Lipscomb of Calif.), and H. R. 4134 (Simpson of Pa.), to allow rapid amortization of waste disposal facilities and treatment works, have been introduced. N.C.A. supports the proposal, which is before House Ways and Means Committee.

Private Carrier Definition

Hearings will be held May 6-8 by the Senate Surface Transportation Subcommittee on a bill, S. 1677, to amend the definition of a "private carrier of property by motor vehicle" in the Interstate Commerce Act.

The amendment was suggested by the ICC purportedly for the purpose of outlawing certain "buy-and-sell" operations and has the support of regulated, for-hire carriers.

Groups representing private truck operators are preparing to oppose this legislation or any change in the existing definition of a private carrier, on the ground that the current interpretation of the definition by the ICC and the Supreme Court is adequate to prohibit the "buy-and-sell" operations.

It is contended that the problem is one of enforcement, and that the current proposal is but an effort to open the way to new litigation, affecting the right of a nontransportation enterprise to operate trucks as a bona fide incident to the primary business.

Members of the Senate Surface Transportation Subcommittee are Senators Smathers (Fla.), chairman and Lausche (Ohio), Magnuson (Wash.), Schoeppel (Kans.), and Purtell (Conn.). This is a subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

Association Activities

Status of agenda and schedule for spring meeting of N.C.A. Board of Directors and related Committees 163

Congress

Special House Subcommittee on Legislative Oversight to investigate regulatory agencies, including the FDA 163
Private carrier definition 166
Status of legislation 166

PAGE

Radio

FCC business radio service 164

Statistics

Prospective plantings of vegetables for processing 163
Beets for canning 165
Cucumbers for pickles 165
Tomatoes for processing 165
Stocks of canned foods on April 1 and season shipments 165
Canned baby food stocks 165
1956 packs in Canada 165